

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAO PA 02596 01 OF 02 302043Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 AGRE-00 HA-05
COME-00 FRB-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 /089 W
-----027254 302102Z /70

R 302015Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8790
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAO PAULO 2596

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT, BR
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH JULIO MESQUITA NETO, JR.

1. AMBASSADOR MET IN SAO PAULO WITH JULIO MESQUITA NETO, JR.,
PUBLISHER AND PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR OF "O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO"
ON AUGUST 23. ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER ALSO PRESENT. THE FOLLOWING
SUBJECTS WERE COVERED DURING THE CORDIAL 2-HOUR LUNCHEON HOSTED
BY DR. MESQUITA:

(1) MESQUITA'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FIGUEIREDO:
MESQUITA SAID HE WAS UNIMPRESSED BY FIGUEIREDO'S INTELLECTUAL
ABILITY BUT ADMITTED THAT THE CANDIDATE IS PLEASANT AND PERSONABLE
ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD MET FOR HALF AN HOUR
WITH FIGUEIREDO ON AUGUST 22 AT FIGUEIREDO'S REQUEST. THIS WAS
A FOLLOW-ON TO AN EARLIER MEETING WHICH THE TWO HAD HAD IN
BRASILIA. MESQUITA IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT FIGUEIREDO DOES
NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEMS WHICH HE WILL
FACE AS PRESIDENT. MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON THE ADVISORS FIGUEIREDO
CHOOSES. IN THIS RESPECT, MESQUITA WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC. HE
THOUGHT IT PROBABLE THAT MARIO SIMONSEN WOULD BE INVITED TO STAY
ON IN AN IMPORTANT MINISTRY. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE
WERE ONLY TWO SURE MINISTERS AT THIS POINT; AIR FORCE GENERAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAO PA 02596 01 OF 02 302043Z

DELIO JARDIM DE MATTOS, PRESENTLY A MEMBER OF
THE SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL IN BRASILIA, AND MARIO ANDREAZZA,
A FORMER MINISTER IN PRESIDENT DUTRA'S GOVERNMENT.

(2) ATITUDE TOWARDS MDB CANDIDATE EULER BENTES MONTEIRO:
MESQUITA INDICATED THAT BETWEEN FIGUEIREDO AND EULER THERE WAS
LITTLE TO CHOOSE IN THAT BOTH WERE ESSENTIALLY MILITARY MEN.

HE CATEGORIZED EULER AS BEING VERY IDENTIFIED WITH THE LEFT WING OF THE MDB. HE SAID THAT EULER HAD CALLED ON HIM THE PREVIOUS WEEK. HE HAD NOT BEEN IMPRESSED BY EULER'S INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY AND THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO OFFER IDEOLOGICALLY. NEITHER WAS HE AS PERSONABLE AS FIGUEIREDO.

(3) FIGUEIREDO'S PROGRAM: MESQUITA INDICATED THAT DELIO JARDIM DE MATTOS HAD STATED PRIVATELY THAT HE WAS GOING TO ENCOURAGE FIGUEIREDO TO CONCENTRATE ON PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN BRAZIL. MESQUITA STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS IDEA AND EMPHASIZED HIS OWN STRONG BELIEF THAT BRAZIL'S FUTURE LIES WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL SCALE AGRICULTURE. HE SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING EXPORT CROPS SUCH AS SOYBEANS, COFFEE AND CACAO. HE THOUGHT IT FOOLISH FOR BRAZIL TO ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP CROPS SUCH AS CORN OR WHEAT, WHICH ARE PRODUCED MORE ECONOMICALLY IN THE U.S. HE SPOKE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BRAZIL RE-EMPHASIZING AND INCREASING COFFEE PRODUCTION AND STATED HIS OPINION THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY TAKING STOPS IN THIS DIRECTION. HE ARGUED THAT THE COFFEE INSTITUTE SHOULD NOT BE AUTONOMOUS BUT RATHER BECAUSE OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE ECONOMY SHOULD BE DEPENDENT TO THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. MESQUITA WAS QUITE UNHAPPY WITH THE CURRENT DIRECTOR OF THE COFFEE INSTITUTE, CAMILO CALAZANS DE MAGALHAES, A NORTH-EASTERNER WHOM HE CONSIDERS INCOMPETENT TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF BRAZIL'S MAJOR COFFEE PRODUCING REGIONS IN THE SOUTHEAST.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAO PA 02596 01 OF 02 302043Z

(4) MESQUITA ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: MESQUITA EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IN CASE OF A TOTAL DEMOCRATIC OPENING, DEMAGOGIC PERSONALITIES WOULD SEIZE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION. WHILE STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULLY DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS OVER THE LONG RUN, HE BELIEVES THE SHORT-RUN PROSPECTS ARE DUBIOUS.

(5) MESQUITA ON BRAZILIAN FOREIGN POLICY: MESQUITA INDICATED THAT IN THE PAST BRAZIL HAD LIMITED ITS FOREIGN POLICY INVOLVEMENT TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTHERN CONE: ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, PARAGUAY, CHILE AND BOLIVIA. HE SAID THAT A COUNTRY OF 100 MILLION PEOPLE WAS NOT INCLINED TO LET A CENTER OF INFECTION DEVELOP ON ITS BORDERS. HE IMPLIED STRONGLY THAT BRAZIL HAD DIRECTLY INTERVENED WITH SOME SUCCESS IN THESE COUNTRIES, INCLUDING IN CHILE DURING THE TIME OF ALLENDE. HE INDICATED THAT BRAZIL IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN ALL COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AMERICA.

(6) MESQUITA ON U.S. POLICY: MESQUITA SAID THAT IT IS A COMMON ERROR TO THINK OF LATIN AMERICA AS A HOMOGENEOUS UNIT. THERE IS ONLY ONE COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA OF CONTINENTAL SCOPE -- IT IS OF PORTUGUESE ORIGIN. THERE IS ANOTHER GROUP OF COUNTRIES, EACH

COMPARATIVELY SMALL AND OF LESSER INDIVIDUAL IMPORTANCE, MAINLY OF SPANISH ORIGIN. HE CATEGORIZED U.S. POLICY AS MISTAKEN IF WE THOUGHT THAT THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE WAS OF VITAL INTEREST AND CONERN TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY EXCEPT VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, PANAMA AND COSTA RICA. HE RECOMMENDED THAT WE DEAL WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS, E.G., COUNTRIES PRODUCING COFFEE, OR OTHER PRODUCTS, AS A GROUP, ALWAYS BEARING IN MIND THAT EACH COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN SPECIAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAO PA 02596 02 OF 02 302048Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 AGRE-00 HA-05
COME-00 FRB-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 /089 W
-----027425 302105Z /70

R 302015Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8791
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAO PAULO 2596

(7) MESQUITA ON BRIZOLA: MESQUITA SPOKE MOST DISPARAGINGLY OF BRAIZOLA. HE POINTED OUT THAT EVEN IN THE 1960'S BRIZOLA LOST AN ELECTION FOR GOVERNOR IN HIS HOME STATE OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL, EVIDENCE THAT HE HAD NO REAL POPULAR POWER BASE. MESQUITA STATED WITH VEHEMENCE THAT BRIZOLA WOULD AND SHOULD BE JAILED IF HE RETURNED TO BRAZIL. BRIZOLA AND HIS "TEAMS OF ELEVEN" WERE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANTING A BOMB IN "O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO" WHICH KILLED SEVERAL PEOPLE. MESQUITA WAS SATISFIED THAT BRIZOLA WAS NOT PREPARED TO FACE THE CHARGES WHICH WOULD BE LEVIED AGAINST HIM IN BRAZIL AND THUS WOULD NOT RETURN. HE BELIEVED THAT MANY OTHER WHO LEFT BRAZIL AFTER THE 1964 REVOLUTION COULD RETURN TODAY WITH NO PROBLEMS, E.G., FORMER GOVERNOR MIGUEL ARRAES OF PERNAMBUCO.

2. COMMENT: MESQUITA GIVES MUCH SAME IMPRESSION AS DOES HIS NEWSPAPER -- WELL INFORMED, ARTICULATE, VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE PRACTICAL LIMITATIONS ON NATIONAL POLICY QUESTIONS, AND WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. HE APPEARS TO BE SINCERELY CONVINCED OF THE ADVANTAGES OF A CIVILIAN-RUN DEMOCRATICALLY BASED GOVERNMENT BUT HAS A STRONG CONSERVATIVE SKEPTICISM AS TO WHETHER

IT IS POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE TRANSITION TO SUCH A GOVERNMENT IN
BRAZIL WITHOUT FALLING UNDER THE SWAY OF LEFTISM POLITICAL
DOGMATISM.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAO PA 02596 02 OF 02 302048Z

3. THIS MESSAGE CLEARED BY AMBASSADOR.
POVENMIRE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SAOPA02596
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780354-0897
Format: TEL
From: SAO PAULO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978088/aaaaaghg.tel
Line Count: 182
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3ac3ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1783504
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH JULIO MESQUITA NETO, JR.
TAGS: PINT, BR, US, (MESQUITA NETO, JULIO JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3ac3ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014